

Statistics Weekly

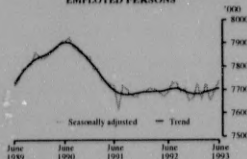
Thursday, 15 July 1993

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statistics

EMPLOYED PERSONS



Full-time employment trend increasing

The provisional trend estimate of full-time employment has been increasing since October 1992, while trend estimates of part-time employment have been falling since September 1992. The unemployment trend is steady after falling since December 1992 while trend estimates of the unemployment rate and participation rate were unchanged from May 1993 at 10.8 per cent and 62.8 per cent respectively.

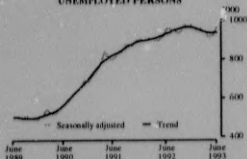
Employment

The June 1993 seasonally adjusted estimate of employed persons was 7,736,000, an increase of 39,100 since May. Full-time employment increased by 40,100 to 5,955,200, with increases of 21,500 and 18,600 respectively in the number of males and females in full-time employment. The seasonally adjusted estimate of part-time employment fell slightly to 1,780,800.

Unemployment

The seasonally adjusted estimate of unemployed persons in June 1993 was 966,400, an increase of 41,600 since May. Male unemployment increased by 17,200 to 601,000, mainly due to an increase of 14,500 in male full-time unemployment, which now stands at 546,400. Seasonally adjusted female unemployment increased by 24,400 to 365,400 with female full-time employment increasing by 19,500 to 264,400.

UNEMPLOYED PERSONS



LABOUR FORCE SURVEY ESTIMATES
Seasonally adjusted

	Employed			Unem- ployed	Unem- ployment rate — per cent —	Parti- cipation rate
	Full-time workers	Part-time workers	Total			
	— '000 —					
1993						
January	5,903.7	1,822.3	7,726.1	954.0	11.0	62.9
February	5,893.8	1,765.4	7,659.2	966.3	11.1	62.4
March	5,940.9	1,786.4	7,727.3	941.3	10.9	62.7
April	5,904.5	1,747.5	7,652.0	914.2	10.7	61.9
May	5,915.1	1,781.8	7,696.9	924.8	10.7	62.2
June	5,955.2	1,780.8	7,736.0	966.4	11.1	62.8

Unemployment rate

The seasonally adjusted estimate of the unemployment rate for June 1993 was 11.1 per cent, an increase of 0.4 percentage points since May. The male unemployment rate increased by 0.2 percentage points to 11.8 per cent, while for females, the unemployment rate increased by 0.6 percentage points to 10.1 per cent.

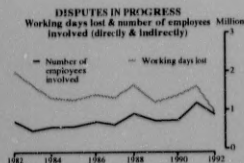
Participation rate

The seasonally adjusted estimate of the labour force participation rate in June 1993 was 62.8 per cent, an increase of 0.5 percentage points since May. The male participation rate was 74.2 per cent, an increase of 0.6 percentage points since May, while the female participation rate rose 0.4 percentage points to 51.6 per cent.

For further information, order the publication *The Labour Force, Australia, Preliminary (6202.0)*, or contact Heather Crawford on (06) 252 6525.

Number of labour disputes lowest for half a century

There were 728 industrial disputes reported in progress in Australia in 1992, 308 less than in the previous year and the lowest for a calendar year since 1942, when 602 disputes were reported. The annual number of disputes has continued to decline since 1984.



The number of working days lost decreased considerably from 1,610,600 in 1991 to 941,200 in 1992, the lowest for a calendar year since 1967. New South Wales reported a decrease of 84 per cent in working days lost from 1,106,300 in 1991 to 174,300 in 1992. The 1991 figure was inflated by a State-wide general strike late in that year. However the 1992 result was the lowest calendar year figure for this State since 1933, when the figure was 53,100.

Victoria reported 586,400 working days lost in 1992, the highest of all the States and 62 per cent of all lost time. It was also Victoria's highest level since 1981 when it recorded 1,235,500 working days lost. Like New South Wales in 1991, Victoria's 1992 figure was heavily influenced by general strike action toward the end of the year.

There was an increase in working days lost in Tasmania from 4,400 in 1991 to 43,000 in 1992. The main contributor to the increase was the paper, paper products, printing and publishing manufacturing industry, which reported 36,700 working days lost.

The number of working days lost per thousand employees for Australia in 1992 was 158, a decrease from 265 in 1991 and the lowest calendar year figure since this series was first compiled in 1967.

In New South Wales the rate fell from 528 working days lost per thousand employees in 1991 to 85 in 1992. This is the lowest recorded rate of working days lost per thousand employees for this State since the series was first compiled in 1967.

In contrast, Victoria and Tasmania recorded increases in working days lost per thousand employees. In Victoria the rate rose from 128 in 1991 to 369 in 1992 while in Tasmania the increase was from 28 to 285.

There were three large disputes that ended in 1992 involving 20,000 or more employees and these disputes accounted for 619,000 working days lost or 66 per cent of total working days lost.

INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES IN PROGRESS, 1982 TO 1992

Period	Number of disputes	Employees involved ('000)	Working days lost ('000)	Working days lost per thousand employees
1982	2,060	706.1	1,980.4	358
1983	1,787	470.2	1,541.4	249
1984	1,965	560.3	1,307.4	248
1985	1,895	570.5	1,256.2	228
1986	1,754	691.7	1,390.7	242
1987	1,517	608.8	1,311.9	223
1988	1,508	894.4	1,641.4	269
1989	1,402	709.8	1,202.4	190
1990	1,193	729.9	1,376.5	217
1991	1,036	1,181.6	1,610.6	265
1992	728	871.5	941.2	158

Managerial policy (including award restructuring) was the major reported cause of disputes that ended in 1992. This cause accounted for 57 per cent of all disputes.

While managerial policy was the most common cause of disputes, the greatest loss of working days and the largest number of employees involved occurred in disputes about matters other than the employee-employer relationship. This category, which includes political strikes, accounted for the loss of 606,100 working days (or 64% of all lost time) and 76 per cent of employees involved.

Disputes lasting up to and including 1 day accounted for 58 per cent of all disputes and 71 per cent of lost time in 1992. Disputes lasting 5 days or more continued to decline. Disputes in this category have declined from 43 per cent of working days lost in 1987 to 10 per cent in 1992.

For further information, order the publication *Industrial Disputes, Australia* (6322.0), or contact Laura Smith on (06) 252 6561.

Wine sales flowing again

Exports of Australian wine maintained their rapid growth in the early months of 1993, and domestic sales have also consolidated an upward trend that began in December 1992.

In the month of April 8.3 million litres of wine, worth \$22.2 million, was exported. While down on the March figure, the volume of exports was 21.6 per cent higher than in April 1992. In the ten months to April 1993 a total of 77.7 million litres was exported, with a value of \$221.9 million. Compared with the corresponding period of 1991-92, the volume of exports was up by 30.5 per cent and the value by 20.0 per cent.

Continued ...



Table wines accounted for almost all of Australia's wine exports, and the principal markets (in order of size) were the United Kingdom, Sweden, New Zealand and the United States.

The provisional trend estimate of domestic wine sales for the month of May rose by 1.9 per cent over April, completing a six-month period of growth following a steady downward trend through much of calendar year 1992. With these two medium-term movements virtually cancelling each other, May sales were marginally above those of May 1992 in seasonally adjusted terms.

Original data for the month showed that sales of white wine in casks accounted for 55 per cent of all table wine sold domestically, with bottled wine providing 28.3 per cent of sales.

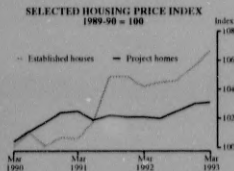
For further information, order the publication *Sales of Australian Wine and Brandy* by Winemakers (8504.0), or contact Peter Carmalt on (08) 237 7626.

Established house prices rise

The price index of established houses in Australia rose 0.9 per cent between the December quarter 1992 and the March quarter 1993. A fall in Melbourne of 1.5 per cent partially offset rises in other capital cities ranging from 0.7 per cent in Perth to 3.9 per cent in Adelaide.

In the year to the March quarter 1993, the index rose 2.3 per cent. This increase was due to positive annual movements in all cities. The increases ranged from 0.2 per cent in Melbourne to 14.9 per cent in Darwin.

Project home prices for Australia increased 0.1 per cent between the December quarter 1992 and the March quarter 1993. Movements ranged from -0.3 per cent in Sydney to 1.9 per cent in Hobart.



HOUSING PRICES, MARCH QUARTER 1993
Percentage change

	Established houses		Project homes	
	From previous quarter	From corresponding quarter of previous year	From previous quarter	From corresponding quarter of previous year
Sydney	1.9	1.7	-0.3	0.3
Melbourne	-1.5	0.2	0.2	-1.2
Brisbane	1.4	4.0	0.4	3.6
Adelaide	3.9	1.5	-0.1	-0.6
Perth	0.7	5.7	0.4	2.8
Hobart	1.7	4.4	1.9	4.1
Darwin	3.3	14.9	0.0	4.1
Canberra	2.8	9.2	0.7	5.8
Weighted average of eight capital cities	0.9	2.3	0.1	1.0

This week in brief ...

❑ Music and performing arts

8.5 million patrons paid \$182.7 million to attend 34,113 performances given by music and performing arts organisations. Organisations involved in theatre presented the most performances (24,613) and had the most people attending (3.5 million) while major musical productions attracted 2.1 million patrons from only 2,084 performances.

21,445 performances, which represented nearly two-thirds (63%) of all performances, were given by organisations which received some form of government subsidy. These performances were attended by 4.9 million patrons (58% of all attendances). 12,668 performances were given by organisations which did not receive any financial assistance from government, and 3.6 million patrons attended these performances.

Source: Music and Performing Arts, Australia, 1991 (4116.0).

❑ Assets of superannuation funds

At the end of March 1993 the value of total assets of superannuation funds and approved deposit funds stood at \$162,596 million, an increase of \$6,722 million (4.3%) on the revised December 1992 figure of \$155,874 million and, up \$16,400 million (11.2%) for the year ended March 1993. The value of assets in Australia increased by \$5,566 million (4.2%) during the March quarter 1993 and assets overseas increased by \$1,156 million (5.0%).

Source: Assets of Superannuation Funds and Approved Deposit Funds, March Quarter 1993 (5656.0).

❑ Construction activity

Quarterly construction activity seasonally adjusted, at average 1989-90 prices: Total construction activity rose by 1.9 per cent in the March quarter 1993, following a rise of 4.7 per cent in the December quarter 1992. Construction activity has now been rising continuously since the September quarter 1991 apart from a 2.6 per cent fall in the September quarter 1992. However, over that period the growth has been slow to the extent that total activity is just over 6 per cent above that of the September quarter 1991. The increase in the March quarter 1993 was solely due to a 12.3 per cent rise in public sector activity. Private sector work fell by 2.6 per cent.

Source: Construction Activity at Constant Prices, Australia, March Quarter 1993 (8782.0).

❑ Foreign trade

Merchandise imports for May 1993 were \$4,822 million, a marginal increase of \$19 million on April 1993 and up \$758 million (19%) on May 1992.

The commodities recording significant increases on the previous month were: petroleum, up \$90 million (33%) to \$362 million; electrical machinery, up \$24 million (8%) to \$304 million; and office equipment (including computers), up \$22 million (6%) to \$379 million.

Decreases were recorded for road vehicles, down \$29 million (5%) to \$522 million; and telecommunication equipment, down \$26 million (12%) to \$183 million.

Source: Foreign Trade, Australia: Merchandise Imports, May 1993 (5433.0).

Inquiries

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Editor

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Statistics Weekly
15 July 1993

Order from the following:

Expected releases over the fortnight to 27 July

- 15 Housing Finance for Owner Occupation, Australia, May 1993 (5609.0; \$10.70)
Price Index of Materials Used in Building Other Than House Building, Eight Capital Cities, May 1993 (6407.0; \$10.70)
Price Index of Materials Used in House Building, Six State Capital Cities and Canberra, May 1993 (6408.0; \$8.20)
- 16 Price Indexes of Articles Produced by Manufacturing Industry, Australia, May 1993 (6412.0; \$10.70)
- 19 Export Price Index, Australia, May 1993 (6405.0; \$8.20)
- 21 Registrations of New Motor Vehicles, Australia, June 1993, Preliminary (9301.0; \$10.70)
- 22 Price Indexes of Materials Used in Manufacturing Industries, Australia, May 1993 (6411.0; \$10.70)
Import Price Index, Australia, May 1993 (6414.0; \$8.20)
- 27 Manufacturing Production, Australia, June 1993, Preliminary (8301.0; \$10.70)

Selected releases: 7 to 13 July

Demography

- Estimated Resident Population by Age and Sex in Statistical Local Areas, Vic., June 1991 (3207.2; \$25.00)
- Age and Sex Distribution of Estimated Resident Population, Qld — Data on Floppy Disk — Technical Details and Explanatory Notes, June 1991 (3217.3; \$82.00)
- Age and Sex Distribution of the Estimated Resident Population, Qld, 1991 (3224.3; \$25.00)

Social statistics

- Court Statistics, Tas., 1992 (4508.6; \$11.20)

National accounts, Finance and Foreign trade

- Private New Capital Expenditure, Aust., Actual and Expected Expenditure to June 1994, March Qtr 1993 Survey (5626.0; \$10.70)

Labour statistics and Prices

- The Labour Force, Aust. — Preliminary Data on Floppy Disk, June 1993 (6271.0; \$66.30)
- Award Rates of Pay Indexes, Aust., May 1993 (6312.0; \$10.70)
- Price Indexes of Copper Materials, Aust., June 1993 (6410.0; \$5.60)
- Price Indexes of Materials Used in Coal Mining, Aust., May 1993 (6415.0; \$10.70)

Agriculture

- Value of Agricultural Commodities Produced, Qld, 1991-92 (7503.3; \$16.30)

Manufacturing, Mining, Energy, Service industries, Building and Construction

- Building Activity, Aust., March Qtr 1993 (8752.0; \$14.30)
- Building Activity, Qld, March Qtr 1993 (8752.3; \$10.70)
- Dwelling Unit Commencements Reported by Approving Authorities, Tas., April 1993 (8741.6; \$7.10)
- Building Activity, ACT, March Qtr 1993 (8752.8; \$10.70)

Key national indicators	Period	Units	Latest figure available		Percentage change (a) on	
			Original	Seasonally adjusted	Previous period	Corresponding period last year
National accounts						
Gross domestic product (GDP(A)) at 1989-90 prices	Mar. qtr 93	\$m	n.a.	94,192	0.6	2.6
International accounts						
Balance on current account (b)	May 93	\$m	-1,213	-1,537	8	-16
Balance on merchandise trade (b)	"	"	181	-237	2	—
Balance on goods and services (b)	"	"	-70	-427	13	—
Merchandise exports	"	"	5,100	4,924	2	8
Merchandise imports	"	"	-4,919	-5,161	-1	-17
Net foreign debt	31 Mar. 93	\$m	160,615	n.a.	-3.9	7.9
Net foreign liabilities	"	"	208,338	n.a.	-1.5	6.8
Consumption and investment						
Retail turnover at current prices	May 93	\$m	7,984	8,304	2.9	3.9
New capital expenditure at 1989-90 prices	Mar. qtr 93	\$m	5,362	6,017	-7.0	6.3
New motor vehicle registrations	May 93	no.	44,797	44,146	-3.4	6.8
Production						
Manufacturers' sales at 1989-90 prices	Mar. qtr 93	\$m	31,512	33,677	1.1	2.3
Dwelling unit approvals	May 93	no.	14,866	14,010	-9.9	5.7
Building approvals	"	\$m	2,117	1,853	-11.8	7.8
Building work done at 1989-90 prices	Mar. qtr 93	\$m	5,748	6,207	0.8	6.9
Prices						
Consumer price index	Mar. qtr 93	1989-90 = 100.0	108.9	n.a.	0.9	1.2
Articles produced by manufacturing industry	Apr. 93	1988-89 = 100.0	114.3	n.a.	0.0	2.2
Materials used in manufacturing industries	Apr. 93	1984-85 = 100.0	124.8	n.a.	-0.9	3.6
Labour force and demography						
Employed persons	June 93	'000	7,741.7	7,736.0	0.5	0.5
Participation rate †	"	%	62.5	62.8	0.8	-0.4
Unemployment rate †	"	%	10.6	11.1	3.5	0.0
Job vacancies	May 93	'000	30.2	31.6	9.5	24.3
Average weekly overtime per employee	"	hours	1.18	1.20	3.5	8.4
Estimated resident population	Dec. qtr 92	million	17.6	n.a.	0.2	1.1
Short-term overseas visitor arrivals	Apr. 93	'000	226	241	-4.8	10.7
Incomes						
Company profits before income tax	Mar. qtr 93	\$m	3,850	4,887	23.9	36.9
Av. weekly earnings, full-time adults; ordinary time	Feb. qtr. 93	\$	593.70	n.a.	1.2	0.8
Financial markets						
Interest rates (c) (monthly average)						
90-day bank bills †	Apr. 93	% per annum	5.25	n.a.	-0.10	-1.70
10-year Treasury bonds †	"	"	7.55	n.a.	-0.25	-1.90
Exchange rate — \$US	May 93	per \$A	0.6979	n.a.	-2	-8

(a) Based on seasonally adjusted figures where available. (b) For percentage changes, a minus sign indicates an increase in the deficit; no sign means a decrease in the deficit or an increase in the surplus. (c) Source: Reserve Bank of Australia.

NOTES: † = change is shown in terms of percentage points. n.a. = not available.

Percentage change from same period previous year										
Key State indicators	Period	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Aust.
New capital expenditure*	Dec. qtr 92	11.7	8.9	11.2	-4.3	16.7	-40.2	n.a.	n.a.	11.0
Retail turnover (trend estimate)	May 93	-0.3	4.5	5.9	1.2	10.4	1.6	n.a.	9.4	3.2
New motor vehicle registrations†	May 93	4.2	10.9	2.7	11.3	5.1	16.0	21.6	10.4	6.8
Number of dwelling unit approvals‡	May 93	7.4	7.2	8.6	11.8	1.9	-2.0	-50.6	28.1	5.7
Value of total building work done	Mar. qtr 93	3.2	2.0	16.0	0.8	35.9	-0.5	-10.8	-6.2	7.5
Employed persons*	June 93	-0.9	-1.1	3.0	1.6	3.6	2.1	-5.5	4.6	0.5
Capital city consumer price index	Mar. qtr 93	1.1	1.1	1.5	1.9	0.3	1.6	1.4	1.8	1.2
Av. weekly earnings (full-time adult ordinary time)	Feb. qtr 93	-1.5	1.8	3.2	1.7	0.3	2.7	4.2	3.2	0.8
Population	Dec. qtr 92	0.9	0.5	2.5	0.5	1.2	0.5	1.0	1.5	1.1
Room nights in licensed hotels and motels, etc.	Mar. qtr 93	6.7	2.3	14.1	-2.5	2.1	10.5	6.1	14.6	7.0

* Seasonally adjusted except for NT and ACT. † Seasonally adjusted except for Tas, NT and ACT.

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